

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 OIC-04 COME-00

TRSE-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08 NSC-10 IO-14 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIEP-02 DODE-00 OMB-01

L-03 H-03 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 061498

R 100835Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7259

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0161

E.O. 1160 : GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 004159

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO IS TRAVELING IN EASTERN NEPAL, I SPOKE TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY (GENERAL KHATRI) LAST NIGHT AND BRIEFED HIM IN FULL THIS MORNING ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON THE WORLD ENERGY PROBLEM. I HIGHLIGHTED OUR FULL RECOGNITION OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE NEED FOR THEIR INTERESTS TO BE APPROPRIATELY REPRESENTED, AND THESE POINTS WERE RECEIVED APPRECIATIVELY.

2. GENERAL KHATRI SAID THAT HE FULLY AGREED THAT AN ACTION PROGRAM WAS NEEDED TO HALT THE DETERIORATION IN THE ENERGY SUPPLY AND PRICE SITUATION. THE PRESIDENT HAD TAKEN A GOOD AND BABLY-NEEDED INITIATIVE. NEPAL WAS ALREADY BEING SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE ENERGY CRISIS WHICH "TOUCHED UPON EVERYTHING". THERE WAS AFALL-OFF IN TOURISM, WHICH WOULD REDUCE INCOME IN THAT SECTION OF THE ECONOMY AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WOULD REDUCE NEPAL'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS. AT THE SAME TIME NEPAL WOULD

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FACE INCREASED FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS FOR ITS NECESSARY PETROLEUM

IMPORTS. IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NEPAL WOULD ALSO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

3. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WAS CRITICAL OF THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR THEIR SHARP PRICE INCREASES. HE SAW NO INDICATION THEY INTENDED TO BRING AN END TO THESE PRICE RISES.

4. GENERAL KHATRI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO HIM, UNDERTOOK TO INFORM BOTH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER, AND ASKED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL BE KEPT ABREAST OF THE SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS.
CARGO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, TOURISM, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KATHMA00161
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740151/aaaabwch.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 004159
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005